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FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT

How J.J. Abrams is uplifting voices of color. 16

'Seven Seconds' is raw, visceral and worth watching. 17

16 types of drugs found in Hudson water. 4

TOMBSTONE TALES

Metro goes inside Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery to talk to the caretakers who maintain one of New York City's most picturesque landmarks. 6

NIKKI MASCALI

WELCOME TO METRO.US

NIKKI M. MASCALI, REPORTER

I'm a history nerd who loves spending time in the city's historic cemeteries. They're my favorite greenspace, which is exactly what many were designed to be — including 180-year old Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. I was lucky enough to tour its beautiful grounds with Neela Wickremesinghe, manager of preservation and restoration, to find out how she and her crew maintain the final resting places of more than half a million New Yorkers, and I can't wait for you to read the story on page 6 and at **metro.us.**

NEW CHARGES AGAINST MANAFORT AND GATES

New sealed criminal charges have been filed in federal court in the case brought by Special Counsel Robert Mueller against two of President Donald Trump's former campaign officials, a court record indicated on Wednesday. The single-page document, filed at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, did not reveal the nature of the new charges in the case involving former campaign manager Paul Manafort and aide Rick Gates. Its inclusion in a binder in the court clerk's office that is routinely updated with new criminal charges signals that Mueller's office may have filed a superseding indictment replacing a previous one from last year against the two men. Manafort, who was Trump's campaign manager for almost five months in 2016, and Gates, who was deputy campaign manager, were indicted by Mueller's office in October.

STUDENTS TURN TO GUN CONTROL GROUP

When they got prayers and thoughts from U.S. lawmakers after a massacre at a Florida high school that left 17 students and teachers dead, thousands of young people turned to the country's largest gun-control advocacy group to learn how to make their voices heard. Students flooded Everytown for Gun Safety with calls after last week's Florida school massacre, prompting the creation of its first student branch, the group said on Wednesday. "We can do social media like no one else," said Sophie Herrmann, 18, a senior seeking to start a Students Demand Action group at Benilde-St. Margaret's, a Catholic high school in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. "We are ready to take on the fight." On Feb. 14, a gunman killed 17 people at a Parkland, Florida high school, the latest in a long series of deadly U.S. school shootings.

For more, see page 11.

TRUMP, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS DISCUSS GUN VIOLENCE

3 President Donald Trump (C), with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (2nd L) and Vice President Mike Pence (2nd R), bows his head during a prayer before taking in a listening session on gun violence with teachers and students in the State Dining Room of the White House on Wednesday.

GETTY IMAGES

COLUMBIA STUDENT'S LAWSUIT DISMISSED

4 A federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a Columbia University student's lawsuit accusing the school of acting with deliberate indifference after she was sexually assaulted twice as a freshman in her dormitory room. U.S. District Judge George Daniels in Manhattan said Amelia Roskin-Frazee failed to show that Columbia responded in a "clearly unreasonable manner" after learning about the October and December 2015 incidents, which she formally reported to its Student Conduct and Community Standards office in August 2016. The case is one of several in recent years accusing U.S. colleges of improperly handling reports of sexual assaults and harassment. The judge said Columbia's actions complied with federal guidelines and its own sexual misconduct policy.

US LOOKING AT NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

5 The Trump administration is considering new sanctions against Russia in response to election meddling and a devastating cyberattack last year, senior U.S. officials said on Wednesday, pushing back against criticism that it has been slow to act. Both Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Congress, which nearly unanimously passed a new sanctions bill against Russia last summer, criticized President Donald Trump for not punishing Moscow and accused him of being soft on his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. Their recrimination followed a decision by the Trump administration in January not to announce sanctions against Russia for now under the new law.

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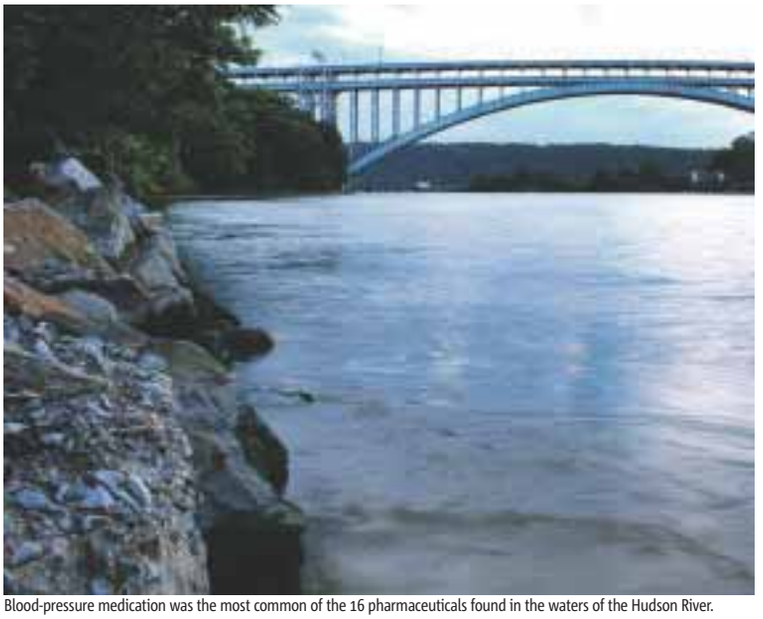
16 types of drugs found in Hudson River water: Study



Blood-pressure medication was the most common of the 16 pharmaceuticals found in the waters of the Hudson River.
PIXABAY

"Some levels are high enough that you could be concerned about fish and other aquatic organisms," an author of the report from Water Research said.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

Hudson River water is teeming with dissolved pharmaceuticals that may have been excreted or flushed down the drain, a new study from the journal Water Research found.

"Some levels are high enough that you could be concerned about fish and other aquatic organisms," said Andrew Juhl, one of the study's authors. "Right now, we don't know what the effects might be. Our point right now is to say these pharmaceuticals are there, and here's the pattern throughout the river."

Juhl is an aquatic biologist from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, which collaborated with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental group Riverkeeper and Queens College on the newly released study.

While this study isn't the first to discover drugs in the waters of the Hudson, it is the first that looked at a wide sample to chart levels and distribution. In total, researchers found 16 types of pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, drugs to treat high blood pressure, high cholesterol, epilepsy, ulcers and heartburn, as well as acetaminophen, a common substitute for aspirin, which was "widespread." Blood-pressure medication was the most common.

Researchers believe the medications entered the Hudson River water via sewage outfalls.

High pharmaceutical levels were found in the waters around New York City, but the highest concentrations were discovered in municipal outfalls upstate, researchers said. About 90 percent of the drugs researchers tested for were discovered near Orangetown and Yonkers, and "worrisome quantities" were found near Kingston.

They sampled 72 sites along a 155-mile stretch of the Hudson River twice — first in May 2016 and again in July that same year — starting above Troy, New York, where the Hudson and Mohawk River connect, and ended off The Battery in New York Harbor.

The study said there is no "direct evidence" that humans can be harmed by the pharmaceuticals found in the Hudson River, but previous studies indicate the current levels could be harmful to aquatic life such as freshwater shrimp, fish and mussels.

"We don't know the consequences for aquatic organisms of long-term chronic exposure to any of these substances or mixtures of them," Juhl said. "At this point, we now have some basis for concern, but we don't really know."

The 315-mile Hudson River flows mostly through eastern New York, originating in the Adirondack Mountains upstate and draining into the Atlantic Ocean between New York City and Jersey City, New Jersey.

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Restoring the past one grave at a time at Green-Wood Cemetery

Meet Neela Wickremesinghe, who, along with her skeleton crew, conserves the final resting places of half a million permanent residents of Brooklyn.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

For the past 180 years, Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery has been serving a dual purpose, first as an active cemetery and second as a 478-acre green space beloved by history buffs, bird watchers, tourists and New Yorkers alike.

But with half a million permanent residents, it takes a proverbial village to keep up Green-Wood's bucolic beauty and all those final resting places.

"Let's say every other person has a headstone. That's over a quarter million pieces of stone," said Neela Wickremesinghe, Green-Wood's manager of preservation and restoration. "Many of them are looking great, many need a little bit of loving care."

Wickremesinghe, 30, is a Staten Island native who has been at Green-Wood since September 2016. She has a bachelor's in architecture and urbanism from Smith College and a master's in historic preservation from Columbia University and previously worked in historic interiors.

"Historic buildings are my passion, and I wanted to make sure that whatever I did worked toward maintaining buildings instead of building new ones," she said.

Metro: What does your team do at Green-Wood?
Neela Wickremesinghe: The restoration department works toward conserving and maintaining the monuments we have within our grounds. This aspect of restoration is so unusual, I'm constantly working with our historian, development officers and horticulture staff because everything we do is interconnected.

What's been your favorite project so far?
We've done over 100 repairs since we began. During the summer, we did a really nice brownstone mausoleum restoration. We had a descendant pay for the work, which was really special — we often don't get to interact with living members of families when we do this work. It came together so beautifully.

Green-Wood Cemetery is home to half a million permanent residents of Brooklyn whose final resting places are lovingly conserved by a skeleton crew helmed by Neela Wickremesinghe. NIKKI M. MASCALI

What did it entail?
It was a full cleaning of a brownstone mausoleum (from 1853) and had many of the problems of a brownstone building: deterioration, stones coming out of alignment, roots growing on the roof, leaves, all of that.

Have you had any calamities?
One of the most heartbreaking things was that we found two headstones that were in pieces, and it broke my heart because sometimes we can't fix things. And like in archeology, reburying something is completely appropriate when you document that you know it's there.

How often does something take your breath away?
Every single day. Even if you've been there many, many times, something will jump out, like this person died really young or this person lived past 100 or the quality of carving — the quality we have here is astonishing.

How would you want to be buried, and what's on your headstone?
Probably a joke or an architectural pun. I think the main thing of working here, you realize how much time and effort goes into the burial process, how many people are involved. I think it'd have to be some sort of green burial. Something easy, definitely. NIKKI M. MASCALI

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Curling: What I learned about the Olympic sport by trying it

Curling really is a surprisingly accessible, playable sport.

EVAN MACY
evan.macy@metro.us

A Metro reporter in Philadelphia found that curling was both challenging, easier than he expected, and surprisingly alluring. ERIKA STUDER-MACY

Sports aren't really that relatable. There are barriers to entry.

I can't really safely speed down an icy track at 80 miles per hour. I can't do a "backside triple cork 1440" or descend down a mountain slope 2.17 miles in one minute and 40 seconds. And where would I even find a luge track or halfpipe?

I'm not going to get to experience anything I've seen over the last two weeks in the Winter Olympics — especially not living in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Except for Curling.

Here's what I learned about curling, as I got a brief lesson from some experts.

1 The ice

It's called pebbled ice. They have a machine that does it, it's not a zamboni. Watch closely on TV and you'll see the rough texture of the ice and it's of subtle but significant importance. You don't really slip and slide, you sort of glide and with more control when wearing what are either special shoes or shoe coverings — to make you more agile in the surface. And then the idea of slowly moving 42-pound stones make more sense.

"Throwing a stone requires a lot less force than you'd think," Ian Alexander, a curler from King of Prussia told me. "It's much more finesse."

2 The physics

The stone has a convex bottom so that very little of it touches the ice. A little bit of rotation makes the stone turn as it slides. The ice is rough, pebbled, as mentioned before, so the sweeping actually smooths the ice so that the stone moves further and literally curls it. Like in billiards, knowing how hard and at what angle to hit a stone can help you score.

"A certain personality, I don't know what it is, is attracted to this sport," Kevin Strayer, who has curled for a decade said. "It's a lot of engineers, doctors, scientific type people. All the Angles are just like shooting pool."

3 The camaraderie

I never thought of it before, but the sport really lends itself to social interaction and fun. It reminds me of bowling, but with more of a team-approach. And I love playing with teams. Curling matches typically consist of two teams of four playing eight or 10 ends. You can't exactly hold a beer while playing.

"It's a very friendly, gentleman sport." Strayer said. "You call your own fouls, it's social, after the game the two teams sit together, winner buys the first round and loser buys the second round."

4 It's really not that hard

Balance is key, so is technique. Both can be learned over repetition. The strategy comes later, and it one of the more exciting parts of the game.

"Curling is easy to learn but tough to master," Alexander said. "[Learning] strategy and tactics and so on will take years. People get better and better over time. It takes a lot of practice."

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Ricardo Cruciani, seen leaving court in Philadelphia after pleading guilty to sexually abusing seven patients and receiving no jail time, is now facing rape charges in Manhattan related to another patient. SAM NEWHOUSE

Disgraced neurologist charged in NY patient rape

Ricardo Cruciani was rearrested in New York months after pleading guilty to sexually abusing patients in Philadelphia.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Some sexual assault victim-advocates fumed after disgraced former neurologist Ricardo Cruciani got no jail time despite pleading guilty in Philadelphia to sexually abusing seven female patients. He got probation and was allowed that day to leave the country and fly to South America for his daughter's wedding.

But three months after the Nov. 21 hearing where Cruciani, 63, took a plea deal from Philly prosecutors, he was rearrested in Manhattan on a slew of new charges, including first-degree rape, the NYPD has confirmed.

Cruciani was rearrested in New York City on Tuesday at the 25th Precinct and charged in relation to a Nov. 17 complaint filed by one of his former patients at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan, where he used to work.

The victim, a 45-year-old woman who has identified herself to media as Hillary Tullin, told authorities that "from 2005 to 2012, her doctor sexually assaulted her on multiple occasion," an NYPD spokeswoman said.

As of Wednesday morning, Cruciani was scheduled to be arraigned on criminal charges in Manhattan Supreme Court that afternoon.

According to the NYPD, he is expected to face two charges of rape in the first degree, seven charges of criminal sexual acts in the third degree, three charges of sexual abuse, and one aggravated sexual abuse charge.

As part of his guilty plea in Philadelphia to misdemeanor indecent assault charges, Cruciani agreed to seven years' registration as a sex offender, 15 years on the Megan's Law registry, to relinquish his medical license permanently and never practice medicine again.

Cruciani is also facing pending civil litigation after at least 17 female patients came forward saying that while working as their doctor at Beth Israel New York City, Capital Institute for Neurosciences' Center for Pain Management in New Jersey and as chair of Drexel University Hospital's Neurology Department in Philadelphia, Cruciani forced or compelled them to perform sex acts, typically in the examination room, during their appointments.

Several of Cruciani's victims acknowledged continuing to see the doctor for years despite the sexual abuse, with allegations ranging from forcible kissing and touching to groping, masturbating in front of them, oral sex and sexual intercourse.

But many of the patients had complex disorders they felt only Cruciani, an expert in the field, could treat, said attorney Jeff Fritz, who is representing several victims in pending legal action against Cruciani and the hospitals where he worked.

"There was nothing consensual about it," Tullin, a former news producer for CBS, told the Associated Press in a previous interview after Cruciani was charged in Philadelphia.

‘Laws have failed,’ say Florida survivors in push to limit gun sales

Some protesters wore T-shirts and carried signs reading “We call B.S.”

Hundreds of people, including teenaged survivors of last week’s deadly Florida high school mass shooting, poured into the state capital Tallahassee on Wednesday demanding that lawmakers limit sales of assault rifles.

Some wore T-shirts and carried signs reading “We call B.S.,” one of the slogans of the movement started by students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 students and educators were slain by a gunman with an AR-15 semi-automatic assault rifle in the second-deadliest shooting at a U.S. public school.

The Feb. 14 massacre, the latest in a long series of deadly U.S. school shootings, stirred the nation’s long-running debate about gun rights and public safety, prompting officials from state lawmakers to President Donald Trump to consider new action.

Investigators said the assault was carried out by 19-year-old former Stoneman student Nikolas Cruz, who purchased an AR-15 nearly a year ago. Police charged Cruz, who had been kicked out of the school due to disciplinary problems, with 17 counts of premeditated murder.

“Nikolas Cruz was able to purchase an assault rifle before he was able to buy a beer,” said Laurenzo Prado, a Stoneman junior, referring to a Florida law that allows people as young as 18 to buy assault weapons. “The laws of the country have failed.”

Florida lawmakers in Tallahassee said they would consider raising the age limit to 21, the same standard for handguns and alcohol, though the state Senate on Wednesday opted not to take up a gun control measure.

Trump, a strong supporter of gun rights, was due to meet later Wednesday with parents, students and teachers who were victims of gun violence, including those affected by the Valentine’s Day shooting in Florida.

“Nikolas Cruz was able to purchase an assault rifle before he was able to buy a beer.”

Laurenzo Prado

The White House meeting comes a day after Trump said his administration would take steps to ban bump stocks, an accessory that enables a rifle to shoot hundreds of rounds a minute. A spokeswoman said the administration was open to the idea of setting national age limits on sales of assault rifles.

Dozens of students packed into a meeting room on Wednesday, peppering Florida Senate President Joe Negron, a Republican, with questions about why civilians should have continued access to assault rifles.

Negron declined to say whether he would support any specific gun control measures, saying, “That’s an issue we’re going to look at as we work to develop legislation.”

REUTERS

Students voiced their outrage over lax firearm laws in a protest against gun violence on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

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An option that a lot of back and neck pain sufferers may have never heard of before.

Before we get into these treatments, please understand this...

NYC Pain MD is a REAL medical clinic that has treated the worst cases of back pain. Patients travel from all over to be treated at one of their clinics for all sorts of joint and muscle pain because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover is a REAL medical treatment. Not some miracle cure you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: <u>There is no one treatment that will help every case of back pain.</u> And we cannot guarantee this treatment will work for you. But this treatment has already helped countless back and neck pain sufferers who had given up hope. I bet many just like you.

What is this treatment? It's called...

Radiofrequency Neurotomy

"Radiofrequncy Neurotomy" is often referred to as RF for short. Just what is "RF".

RF is a procedure that is based on the concept that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

There are many nerves around your spine and one of their jobs is to sense PAIN.

Radiofrequency waves are delivered to these nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves and slow down the pain

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, the Radio Frequency Neurotomy is scheduled and performed for longer term relief.

What Results Can You Expect?

Like all real medical procedures... results vary for individual patients. No good and ethical doctor would guarantee any exact results for any procedure... that's just not how things work and it would be less than honest.

That's being said, it is not uncommon for patients to get complete, if not significant relief of their pain shortly after the treatment.

How Long Do The Results Last?

This procedure "impaits" the nerves pain signals... it does not destroy them. Therefore, the results are safe but not completely permanent. But, many patients get relief for 6 months… 12 months…. 18 months for some even longer. The great news is - another procedure can be safely preformed for more relief if necessary.

While we cannot claim this is a complete "permanent cure" . . . it can be a godsend for so many who were in constant pain.

Really... what would it be worth if you could get out of pain for long enough so you could start enjoying your everyday life again?

Would it be worth it to be able to finally get a good night's sleep again?

How about being able to go for a simple walk or just do your basic daily chores without worrying about so much pain?

Is It Safe?

Yes. This procedure has been done countless times and continues to have an excellent safety record. It is minimally invasive and i*s not surgical.*

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti - inflammatory pain medication and physical therapy do not offer good enough results.

RF has also been found effective AFTER back surgery when patient's still feel pain.

The pain after a failed back surgery can be debilitating for some and this procedure may be the only thing that helps give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain And The "X" Factor

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof without the need for a surgical center or hospital.

Major Savings In Time And Costs Of Care?

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r Greatly Reduce Even The Most Severe Back Pain...

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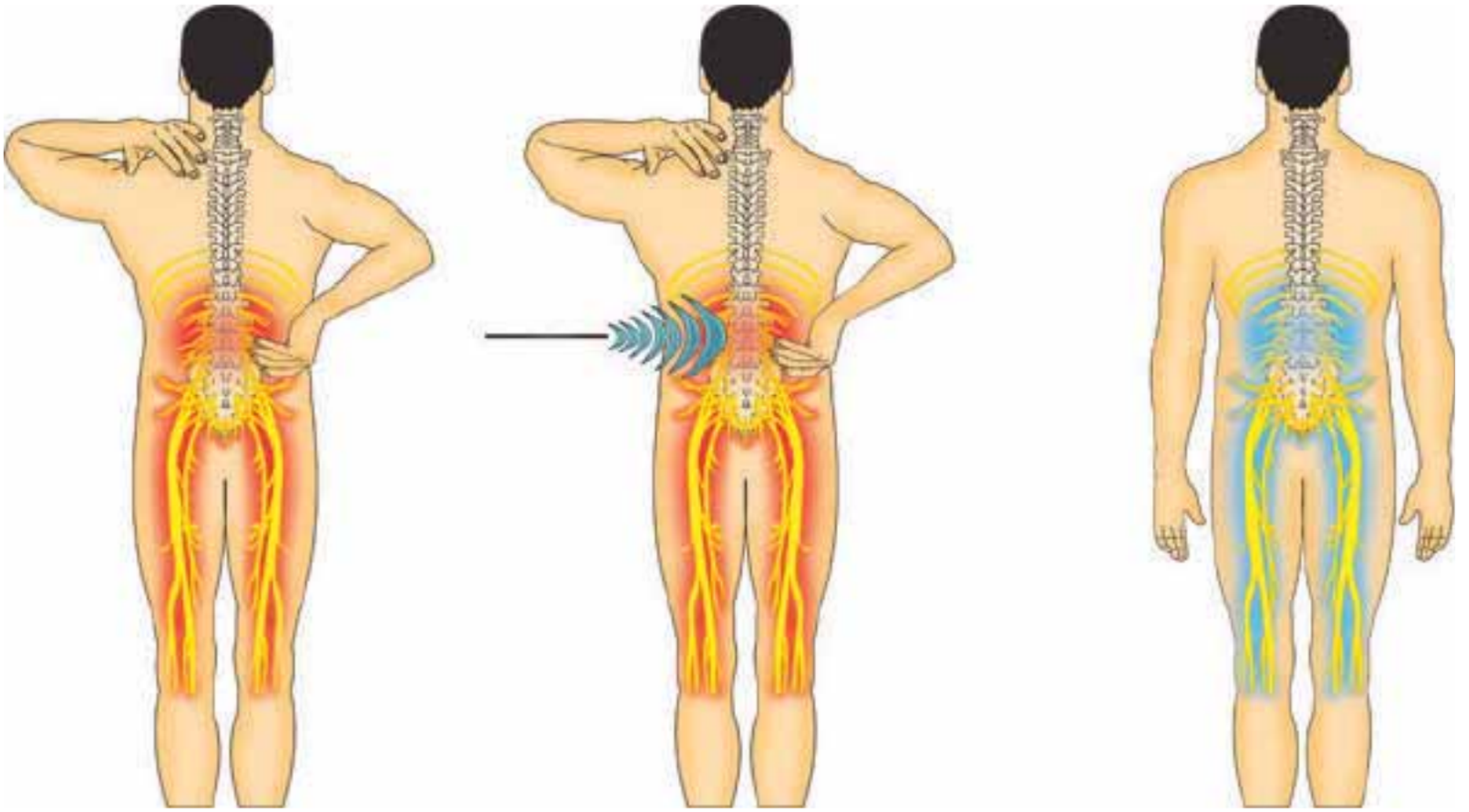
Advanced Treatment Uses Radio Frequencies To Relieve Serious Neck & Back Pain



Science rescues back & neck pain sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many

NYC Pain MD's method allows you to avoid expensive hospital or out patient surgi-center facility fees which often run 3 to 4 times the cost of the procedure itself. And you don't have to go through the huge stress and time consuming process of going all over the city to outside centers. All the *NYC Pain MD* treatments can be done in our in-office procedure suites saving you stress, time and dollars. *NYC Pain MD* believes this additional "X" factor is one of the reasons so many back pain sufferers travel from all over to be treated at their advanced medical center.

Your Invitation

NYC Pain MD offers limited number of complimentary back and neck pain screenings every month. These screenings are a way for pain sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at *NYC Pain MD*. If you would like complimentary screening, just call 877-503-8540 and tell the scheduling co-ordinator who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary back pain screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

This screening is at no cost and no obligation.

Many of the treatments offered are covered by many insurance plans an traditional medicare.

Call 877-503-8540 for your free screening and find out if you can get out of pain today

NYC PAIN MD

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Dems want FBI to fight 2018 election interference

Democrats want $300 million for the FBI to fight possible Russia election tampering.

Republican aides said the FBI funding would be considered as spending legislation is written. GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Democratic leaders called on Congress on Wednesday to give the Federal Bureau of Investigation $300 million to fight foreign efforts to interfere in congressional and state elections in November, amid growing concerns about potential Russian influence on the polls.

Citing warnings from intelligence agencies that Russia is trying to influence the upcoming vote, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi asked that the additional funds be included in a bill to fund the government which Congress aims to pass by March 23.

"This additional funding should be targeted to ensure the resources and manpower to counter the influence of hostile foreign actors operating in the U.S., especially Russian operatives operating on our social media platforms," Schumer, Pelosi and the top Democrats on the Senate and House Appropriations Committees wrote in a letter.

They sent the letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan. Republican aides said the proposal, along with many others, would be considered as the spending legislation is written.

Leaders of U.S. intelligence agencies warned a Senate committee last week that Russia is trying to interfere in the 2018 midterm elections, when control of Congress is up for grabs, much as it did during the 2016 U.S. campaign.

And on Friday, the office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller charged 13 Russians and 13 Russian companies with conspiracy to tamper with the 2016 race.

Moscow has denied election meddling and President Donald Trump rejects suggestions that his associates colluded with Russia.

Democrats also want a "substantial" increase in funding for the Department of Homeland Security and Election Assistance Commission to help states upgrade their machines and systems.

Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on a conference call with reporters that she would back $386 million for states.

Members of Congress have repeatedly decried what they see as federal officials' failure to do more to work with states to protect the election system.

Homeland Security said last year that 21 states had experienced initial probing of their systems from Russian hackers and a small number of networks were compromised.

But three U.S. intelligence officials said protecting sources of information about the use of cyberspace to meddle in elections are a major obstacle to closer cooperation with state officials because much of the intelligence is so classified that it cannot be shared with anyone who does not have a high-level security clearance.

Schumer also said Democrats want Trump administration officials to issue a public report detailing how Russia might interfere in the 2018 U.S. vote.

They also want a classified report for state officials and relevant congressional committees. REUTERS

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J.J. Abrams is fighting for female filmmakers

Chatting with the prolific writer, director and producer about marginalization and raising the voices of women and people of color.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Abrams reveals Bad Robot's plan to right a blatant and pervasive wrong. GETTY IMAGES

The eighth annual Athena Film Festival will run at Barnard College in New York City between **February 22 – 25**, and will showcase films and TV series from powerful and courageous women leaders in real and the fictional world.

J.J. Abrams wants to make one thing clear: He does not feel worthy of the Athena Film Festival's Leading Man Award.

He's wrong, of course. The prolific writer, director and producer — who is behind a wide variety of hits, from "Felicity" to "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" — is being recognized at the event, which celebrates female leadership, for his ongoing support and advocacy of women in the entertainment industry, both with his films and his production company Bad Robot.

Abrams understands the importance of the accolade though, especially considering the sexual assault revelations that have come out of Hollywood over the last few months.

Ahead of the eighth annual Athena Film Festival, we chatted with Abrams over the phone about his plans to halt Hollywood's marginalization of women and people of color. Buckle in, because Abrams had an awful lot to say.

What was your reaction to being given the Athena Film Festival's Leading Man Award?
To be recognized by the Athena Film Festival is very generous of them. Frankly, I don't feel worthy of any award. I am flattered and I am humbled and I am honored. All we are trying to do is do better and collaborate with as many talented women as possible. And make sure that they are in the room where it happens and that they are part of the decision making process. And that they are leading the way and doing all of the things that typically men have been doing.

This is a moment and a movement where this conversation is really important. I feel like we are just trying to figure it out as we go along.

Have you been doing more at Bad Robot to help solve this issue?
Very much so. To see that women and people of color have been so systematically marginalized in the process of just being considered for jobs, let alone the hiring process. Many times they wouldn't even been on the list for potential hiring.

One of the things that Katie, my wife, and I did at Bad Robot is start a process where our agency was asked to only give us lists that only represent the makeup of the country so we could see people who typically would not be there. Whether that's people or women of color. And it was fascinating how that began to change the conversation. It has been very important to us at Bad Robot because I feel that on a fundamental humanistic level, it's simply fair. And also on a business level it's simply smart for business. It's a benefit every way that you look at it.

Just look at the success of "Black Panther."
We want stories that are surprising. That are revelatory. That are honest and true. The best stories do not come from the haves. The best stories come from those that have struggled. Those that are in a fight. Those that are subjected and marginalized and had to fight back.

If you're only looking at a list of people that have been incredibly successful for years and are all cut from a certain cloth and of a certain type, you are limiting what you can make. And as a producer I want to be involved in telling different stories that will reach as many different people as possible and will work as well as they could.

Some will work and some will not. But if you don't take the chance. Listen, there are plenty of people that got a shot when their resume didn't necessarily prove that they deserve it. But you take a shot with certain people. That's something we have done at Bad Robot for a long time.

All I want to do is be involved in stories that are inspiring. And when you go off the beaten path you often find some sort of wonderful surprises. That's why it is important to be looking beyond the usual suspects."

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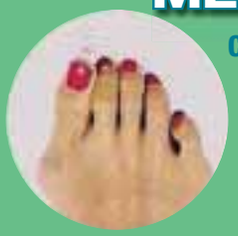

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Clare-Hope Ashitey deftly plays KJ Harper, a hard drinking attorney with redemption on the horizon.
NETFLIX

Watching 'Seven Seconds' isn't easy, but it's worth it

A realistic portrayal of racial tension in America and its heartbreaking consequences.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

"Seven Seconds" — Netflix's latest crime drama hybrid — is hard to watch. In the first five minutes, a white cop accidentally runs over a black teen; afterward, he calls his fellow officers to the scene, and then comes the cover up. Then the consequences. Then the riots.

It's all too familiar. And the series, out Feb. 23, is heartbreaking in its sheer commitment to the harsh realities of being young, black and in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The crime thriller takes racial tensions and dials them up to a deafening, real-life clamor. So real, it hurts — from the cops determined to protect their own at any costs in an America that has endured the tragedies of Eric Garner and Michael Brown all the way to the short-tempered, harried receptionist that greets parents Latrice (Regina King) and Isaiah (Russell Hornsby) at the hospital where they find their son brutalized by the hit-and-run.

True to form, nobody is perfect, especially when faced with uncomfortable truths — which are aplenty in "Seven Seconds." Latrice and Isaiah are forced to confront who their son really was; prosecutor KJ Harper (Clare Hope Ashitey) is forced to face her own, self-inflicted demons. And the officer who hit the boy is not only wracked with guilt, but he wears that guilt prominently. Like a sleeve.

Thankfully, the cast is all-around impressive. Especially King's performance as a mother lost in grief (and we all know nobody does grief like King). Ashitey deftly plays Harper as a frazzled, gin-and-tonic-loving lawyer who is inspired anew by the case. She's amazing to watch too, especially when she's playing off her partner, Michael Mosley's chatty, prying Joe "Fish" Rinaldi. Their tit-for-tat brings a lightness to the series that doesn't ever make things any less serious.

So as far as procedurals go — at least the ones ripped from the headlines — "Seven Seconds" is certainly worth a weekend binge.

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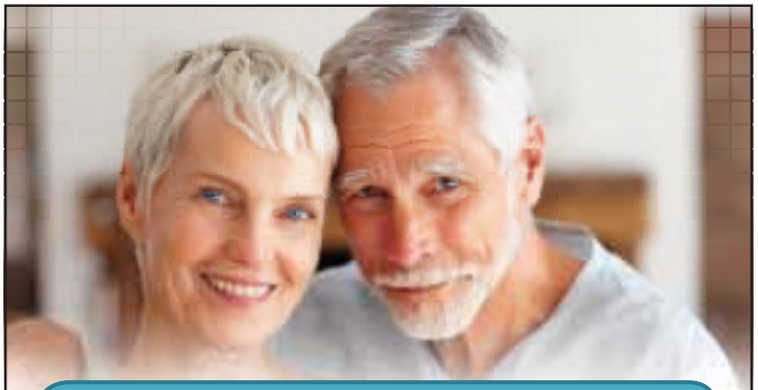

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On Thursday nights from Feb. 22-March 15, the Winter Garden becomes a biergarten. **BROOKFIELD PLACE**

This week, we drink craft beer

NYC Beer Week has arrived, and the scene hasn't been this hot in — well, ever!

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

New York state just passed a huge milestone that will come as no surprise to beer lovers: Craft-beer production in the state is the highest it's been, with an average of one new brewery opening every six days in 2017, for a total of 400 places turning hops and malt (crops also making a resurgence in the state) into the good stuff.

That's a lot of ground to cover for New York City Beer Week. The 10th annual celebration of brewing in the five boroughs and beyond kicks off Feb. 23 and runs through March 4. But with 100 events spread over dozens of venues, they'll do their best.

"With over 60 breweries participating — 30+ city-based brewers and 30 guest brewers from around the country joining in — this promises to be one for the history books," promises Dave Lopez, co-founder of Gun Hill Brewing Co. in the Bronx and a member of the New York City Brewers Guild, which organizes Beer Week.

The Brewers Guild is a nonprofit founded to promote the city's brewing industry, but they've always strived to provide a holistic view of the beer scene, inviting brewers whose work they like from around the country and beyond.

All of which is to say, it's an amazing time to love beer, and Beer Week is a great chance to meet the passionate people who make it, drink some one-of-a-kind brews that won't be seen anywhere else, and try the out-of-town beers that the experts think are good enough to make it here.

We've lined up the highlights of beer week here; for more, check out the Beer Week site at nycbrewed.com.

Opening bash

This is where you'll find the entire festival in one place. All 60 breweries taking part in the festival will be there, vying to show off their best beers in the festive atmosphere of the Brooklyn Expo Center. Pair your pours with bites from the Craft Beer Food Court, plus

things to do

This year, 60 breweries from the five boroughs and beyond are taking part. PROVIDED

live music, games, tons of swag and more. *$80, Feb. 24, 6-9:30 p.m., Brooklyn Expo Center, 72 Noble St., Greenpoint*

Beers from the Hudson Valley

See what's brewing in the foodie hub just north of us at Beers from the Hudson Valley at Bed-Stuy's best craft beer bar The Wilky. It's a good thing they serve great grub, too — there will be 18 taps to sample from breweries including Industrial Arts, Peekskill and Sloop, so come ready to party. *Free entry, Feb. 24, 2 p.m.-midnight, 108 Patchen Ave., Brooklyn*

Fermentation Festival

Funky food is good for you, and the Fermentation Festival is your chance to try the world of living food beyond pickles with offerings from over 40 vendors, ranging from kimchi and sauerkraut to mead and, of course, beer. There are live demos and seminars, interactive stations, arts and crafts, and live music from the Homebrewsicians and the American Sankeys. Most activities and many samples are included. *Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Brooklyn Expo Center, 72 Noble St., Brooklyn, $20, nycfermfest.com*

There are grand tastings and smaller pairing dinners. PROVIDED

IPA Takeover

Yeah, yeah, IPAs have been hogging all the headlines for years, but if you're not over it yet (like us), head to Strong Rope Brewery to try seven IPAs all made with ingredients from right here in New York state. Brewers include the fabulously named Ripe & Ruin and Heavenly Root. *Feb. 28, 4-8 p.m., 574 President St., Gowanus*

5 Borough Challenge Biergarten

Beginning Feb. 22, Brookfield Place's Winter Garden will turn into an all-local biergarten every Thursday night through March 15. Each session will feature one beer from each of the five boroughs, with those voted most popular invited back for the final night to crown the best in the city. It's not a comprehensive survey — NYC has about 40 breweries at this point, so you'd need an eight-week event to try them all — but it's a great introduction, and has the advantage of taking place indoors, under palm trees, with live music and bar games. *Free entry, pay-as-you-go beer and food, Thursdays from Feb. 22-March 15, 4-9 p.m., 230 Vesey St.*

Singlecut Ren Fest

When you're making Renaissance-era beers, you need some Renaissance-era foods. SingleCut Beersmiths in Astoria is throwing a little out-of-season Ren Fest to feature cask ales, a revived style of beer rising in popularity among serious beer geeks that spends its life in a cask, from fermentation to serving, with barely any carbonation and served at room temperature. Your ticket includes tastes of the beers, a smoked turkey leg and "other Renaissance inspired tomfoolery." *$22.50, March 3, 2-6 p.m., 19-33 37th St., Queens*

Ruppert's Cup Awards Brunch

Each brewery has their own recipes and strengths, but what happens when they all have to work with the same stuff? Find out at the fest's final event when 16 breweries unveil their SMaSH brews — that's State Malt and State Hops, so everything was grown right here in New York. They'll be taking over the taps at Randolph Beer DUMBO so you can taste them all by the ounce (or more), along with the usual brunch menu. *Pay-as-you-go, March 4, noon-2 p.m., 82 Prospect St., Brooklyn*

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Bond 45

The Theater District is becoming something of a tropical paradise, with the SpongeBob SquarePants musical opening in December and Escape to Margaritaville, the jukebox musical about the life of Jimmy Buffett, now in previews at the . In honor of the show, its neighbor across the street, the longtime Italian kitchen and bar Bond 45, has created the Margaritaville Margarita with pineapple-infused tequila, Aperol, lime, yuzu, agave, passion fruit and Calabrian chilis. *221 W. 46th St.*

Mad Dog & Beans Mexican Cantina

Bring some friends to the city's only restaurant that serves margaritas by the tower — a whopping 100 ounces of frozen goodness in 11 flavors including guava and "electric blue." Lock down an order at Mad Dog & Beans, which also invited Astral Tequila and Sauza Tequila to offer free tastings from 5-9 p.m. *5 E. 38th St., Midtown East; 83 Pearl St., Financial District*

Margaritaville Margarita
BOND 45

La Loncheria

Brooklyn's new contemporary Mexican spot from the team behind Hecho en Dumbo team is putting a fundraising spin on Margarita Day to benefit Border Angels. On Feb. 22 starting at 4 p.m., they'll turn the bar over to three guest bartenders doing two-hour stints, each with their own totally different take on the mezcal margarita. Early birds get free bar snacks like stewed tacos and $5 guac. *41 Wilson Ave., Brooklyn*

Norwood

Usually restricted to members, margarita fans can make a reservation at the Norwood club's Potion Room to try an exclusive Patrón concoction by Cody Goldstein, winner of their Margarita of the Year competition. Goldstein created a line of "cocktail fizzers" that are basically bath bombs in a glass: drop it in and watch it dissolve into a cocktail with Patrón Silver tequila. There are seven flavors of fizzers like orange marmalade-sherry and pickled plum-kelp tea; a flight of all seven will run you $200 (or $30 per fizzer). *241 W. 14th St., must make a reservation through reservations@norwoodclub.com*

Cocktail Fizzers the Norwood
PATRON TEQUILA

Bodega Negra

Dream Downtown hotel's Mexican party spot Bodega Negra is doing Make Your Own Margaritas ($17) during dinner service on Feb. 22. It's a great chance to get a little more knowledgeable about how various kinds of tequila (you've got a choice of blanco, reposado, anejo and mezcal) pair with your favorite flavors. Each drink includes two mixers including berries, pineapple and jalapeño, as well as a choice of three salts on the rim. *355 W. 16th St., Chelsea*

The Attic Rooftop

With our random week of spring at the end of February, head up to The Attic Rooftop for 360-degree views of Manhattan while sipping on margs at happy hour prices: $5 per glass or $35 for their Classic Margarita, or $8/$45 for specials like the Mellow Margarita (Patron Roca, nutmeg syrup, cranberry juice, lime juice, agave). *251 W. 48th St.*

Egg Shop

If you're the brunch for every meal of the day kind of person, both of Egg Shop's sunny locations are offering a BOGO on their super simple (that's a good thing) and not-too-sweet Watermelon Margarita ($13). *151 Elizabeth St., Nolita; 138 N. Eighth St., Williamsburg*

Watermelon Margarita
EGG SHOP

Añejo Tribeca

Looking for the Cadillac of margaritas? Añejo Tribeca's upstairs dining room, with dramatic blue-lit bar and crystal chandeliers, is the perfect setting for "mezcal sommelier" Amanda Swanson's Clase Azul Mezcal Margarita ($55), made with Clase Azul Durango Mezcal, Grand Marnier 1880, lime juice and agave. *301 Church St.*

The Black Derby

For a little new fusion action, find a margarita made with tequila aged in Chardonnay barrels at The Black Derby. Winemaker Dave Phinney branched out into the agave spirit with Ayate Tequila, mixed with Manadrine Napoleon orange liqueur, lime and agave nectar ($10). The restaurant is also launching its new Happy Hour on Feb. 22, with $10 plates like lamb sliders, salt-and-pepper calamari and ahi tuna tostadas. *310 W. Fourth St., West Village*

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THEATER

"Jerry Springer: The Opera"

What better format than opera to celebrate our beloved national pastime of ridiculing strangers on daytime TV? America's iconic talk show is musically satirized in "Jerry Springer: The Opera," which had a long run in London and is finally making the jump to New York. when Springer (Terrence Mann) has to wrangle some truly heinous guests — from tap-dancing KKK members to a singing Satan (Will Swenson) — the host has to pull all the stops to prove he's still the one running the show.
Feb. 22-March 11, Pershing Square Signature Center, 480 W. 42nd St., $85-$125, thenewgroup.org

ARTS

They, Themself and Schmerm

Becca Blackwell, a trans artist who prefers the pronoun "they," brings their one-person show to Joe's Pub this Thursday, hoping to shine some light and laughter on what it means to question your gender in modern America. ("Schmerm," for the record, is the sound people make when they say, "She, he, erm...") Fully candid and confessional, Becca uses comedy to open up about their history, from being raised in the Midwest to having a romantic fling in a mental ward.
Feb. 22, 9:30 p.m., Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St. $12-$15, joespub.com

SCI-FI

Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival

The Shakespeare of the science fiction realm, Philip K. Dick's works are never far from the popular consciousness, most recently with the new Netflix series Electric Dreams. You also have him to thank for "Blade Runner," "Total Recall," "The Man in the High Castle" and many more adaptations. Now in its sixth year, this film festival of feature-length films and shorts, including world premieres and celebrity guests, will immerse you in the eerily prescient and deeply felt world of this singular novelist.
Feb. 23-25 various locations, $50-$99 thephilipkdickfilmfestival.com

SUPERHEROES

PROVIDED

Marvel Universe LIVE!

Just in time to feed into the "Black Panther" hype, Marvel Universe LIVE! comes to Barclays Center with nine shows. You won't have to wait for "Avengers: Infinity War" to catch all of your favorite Marvel superheroes together in one place: Iron Man and Doctor Strange battle side-by-side with the Guardians of the Galaxy and the Wasp (before her movie debut this July). A total of 25 heroes perform stunts and fly through the air in the name of protecting the universe from Loki.
Feb. 22-25, Barclays Center, 620 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, $30-$101, marveluniverselive.com

WRITING

The Write Drunk: A Salon For Reluctant Writers

Looking for a little inspiration? Or just need to write someplace that isn't a coffee shop? Jenny Blake (Pivot podcast) and Monica McCarthy (The Happier Hour) are here for you with an afternoon-long writing sprint next to a fully stocked bar, should you need it. Whether it's your dating profile or first novel, you'll get practical tips, live timed writing prompts and more to get past that terrifying first blank page. **Feb. 24, 3:30 p.m., Caveat, 21A Clinton St. $25-$30, caveat.nyc**

SILLY

The Great Onesie Bar Crawl

You've never been this comfy while partying in public (or if you have, then this time you can do it shame-free). Wear your favorite onesie, whether it's a costume or pajamas or some other creative piece of clothing, as long as it's all one piece, to go drinking in Williamsburg as part of the first Great Onesie Bar Crawl. You'll check in at the Alligator Lounge, snap pics in the photobooth, and pick up passes to get specials along the route.
Feb. 24, 3-9 p.m., Alligator Lounge, 600 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn, $30, greatonesie.com

FOOD

Charcuterie Masters

Meat artisans square off for the title of Charcuterie Master by your vote, so be sure to sample all of the more than 60 hams, salamis, pates, sausages and more. There will also be a butchery demo by chef Rodrigo Duarte. To wash it all down, there are pairings of wine, cider and beer.
Feb. 24, 6-9 p.m., Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Queens, $65-$125, nyepicurean-events.com

GAMES

Oscars Trivia

Maybe you've been prepping for film's biggest night by watching all of the contenders ahead of the awards show March 4, but the only way to show your true adoration of the Academy Awards is by destroying the competition at Oscars Trivia at Videology. Your team will answer questions about the past 89 years of the ceremony, with clips and photos. The winning team gets a free round of drinks and their own souvenir Oscar!
Feb. 25, 8 p.m., Videology, 308 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, Free, videologybarandcinema.com
T. MICHELLE MURPHY

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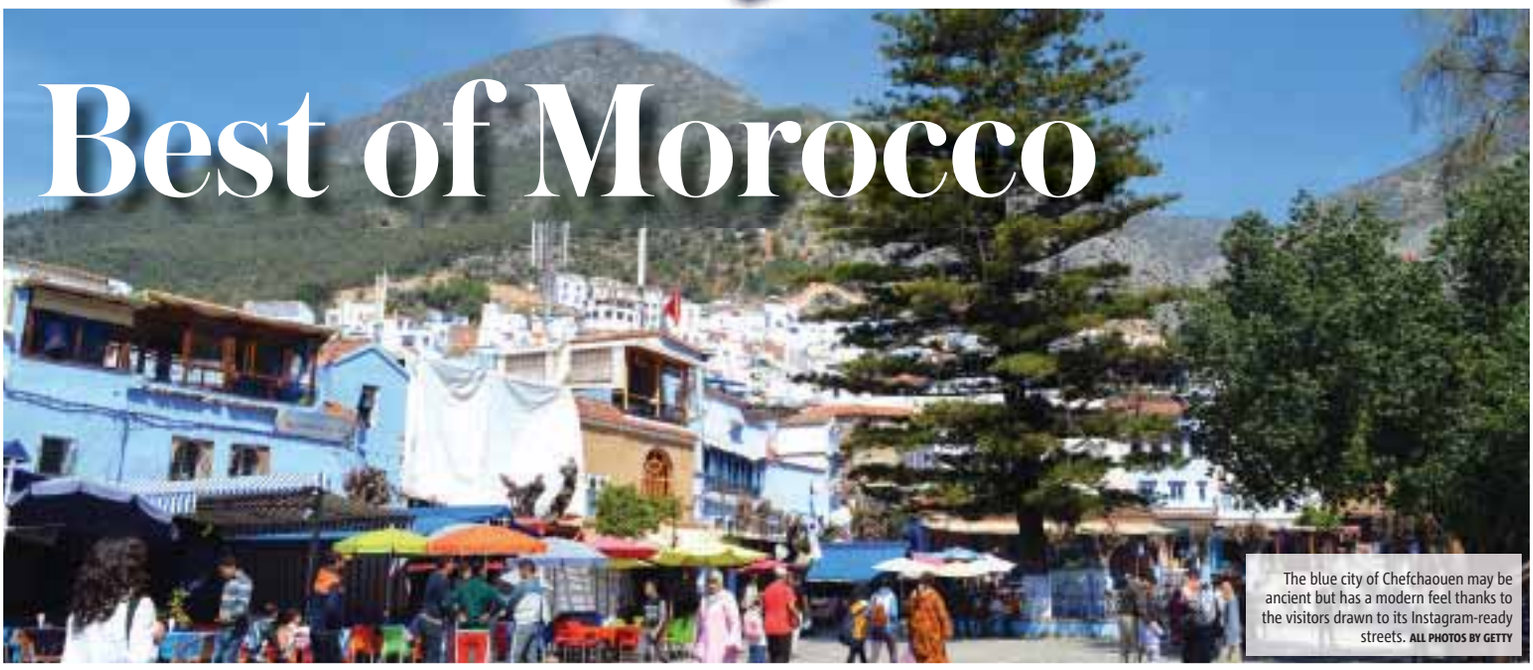

The blue city of Chefchaouen may be ancient but has a modern feel thanks to the visitors drawn to its Instagram-ready streets. ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY

Everything there is to see in the North African gem.

Fodor's Travel

From the rugged Atlas Mountains to the laid-back surfing beaches, Morocco is a country full of delights. Get lost in the souks, ride a camel through the desert, and indulge in traditional cuisine–in this magical part of the world, all your wanderlust dreams can come true.

Go camel-trekking

Mount a dromedary camel to explore the undulating orange dunes and abandoned kasbahs of the desert, a magical region immortalized in film and fiction. Camel rides are also available in Marrakesh (near the Menara Gardens) and on Essaouira beach if your itinerary doesn't include the desert.

Sip mint tea

Make like a local and install yourself on a cafe terrace for a fortifying mint tea and a dose of people watching. Tea (sometimes called Berber whiskey) is the essential social lubricant in Morocco, and this sugary sweet pick-me-up is used to welcome visitors and seal deals.

Camp in the Sahara

For a once-in-a-lifetime experience, escape into the world of the Berber nomads and explore these windswept Saharan dunes stretching 19 miles and rising to 820 feet. Select an overnight tour to stay in a Bedouin tent in the Erg Chebbi or Erg Chigaga desert wilderness. Sleep beneath the stars and wake to spectacular sunrises.

Get pampered at a hammam

Getting scrubbed and steamed at a local hammam does wonders for the weary. Whether you choose a communal public bath or private room in an upscale spa, this traditional therapy of brisk exfoliation and bathing using natural cleansers has promoted physical and mental hygiene and restoration for centuries. Public hammams are clean and inexpensive.

Go on safari in the Sahara.

Visit a Berber village

In many ways, life for semi-nomadic Berbers in the mountains and deserts of Morocco is not much easier today than it was for their forefathers. Morocco's indigenous people take great pride in their way of life and are incredibly hospitable to passing visitors, where you can witness bread being baked in outdoor ovens and the lifestyle of families living close to nature. Many tour operators combine lunch or tea with a Berber family with a one day trek or a visit to a local market.

Step into a hammam for a relaxing afternoon.

Trek the Mountains of the High Atlas

For spectacular vistas and fresh air, the High Atlas is a perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle of urban Morocco. North Africa's tallest peak, Djebel Toubkal, rises to nearly 14,000 feet and is only a two-day climb, best done in late summer. Amateur hikers with guides follow less strenuous but equally rewarding routes through rural Berber villages and rocky paths.

Explore the Old City of Fez el-Bali

Step into a time warp in Fez, a ninth-century medina, and the world's most active medieval city. With culturally important fondouks, riads, medersas, mosques, and palaces dating back 1,000 years filling the 9,500 alleyways, it's no surprise Fez el-Bali is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Catch a Wave

The Atlantic coast between Agadir and Essaouira is famous for water sports. Head to Taghazout for surfing, Moulay Bouzerktoun (north of Essaouira) for windsurfing, or Essaouira for kite surfing. Equipment can be hired at all beaches and on calm days, stand up paddle boarding is also possible.

Spot Goats in Trees

The Southern Atlantic region of Morocco is the only one where the argan tree, famous for the cosmetic and culinary properties of its nut oil, grows. Commonly known as "Berber gold" for the income the oil has brought to local communities in Agadir, argan nuts are also a favorite of goats. Along routes in the region, you'll spot goats in trees, feasting on the nuts.

Instagram the Blue Town of Chefchaouen

Founded in the 15th century by Spanish exiles, the village of Chefchaouen, in the foothills of the Rif Mountains, is widely considered to be one of Morocco's most picturesque places. Relax beneath verdant shady trees on the cobblestoned Plaza Uta el-Hamman and wander the steep Andalusian passageways, where buildings bathed in cobalt and indigo hues blend with terracotta-tiled roofs and ocher-and-poppy-red wool carpets to create a vibrant canvas.

Visit the Hassan II Mosque

One of the largest mosques in the world is in Casablanca, covering almost a million square feet and holds up to 25,000 people. Two-thirds of the building is over the sea, where the minaret's light beacon shines 20 miles towards Mecca. It ranks as the country's most exceptional representation of Moroccan artistry for its ornate carved stucco, zellij tile work (a type of mosaic), and onyx-and-marble details.

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A weekend in Iceland

Escape the chill in the Myvatn Nature Baths. GETTY IMAGES

Discover the rural charms of the country's second-largest city, Akureyri.

Fodor's Travel

Fewer than 60 miles from the Arctic circle and a four-and-a-half-hour (jaw-droppingly beautiful) drive from Reykjavik is Akureyri.

Iceland's second-largest urban area, Akureyri is still a quiet village buttressing the country's longest fjord, Eyjafjörður. Wander the streets at night and you won't have much company, but you can find a warm energy glowing inside beer bars, bookstore/cafes, and candlelit seafood-centric eateries.

It may be a more rural experience than Reykjavik, yet with Michelin-starred meals, designer crafts, museums and outdoor public art. Follow our day-by-day guide to a weekend trip up north.

Friday

When you arrive at the Akureyri airport, the plane will land you right at the edge of the imposing snow-capped mountains. Check into the nearby boutique Icelandair Hotel and maybe take a dip in the pool across the street. Wander down the street to Rub23, the city's most popular restaurant, for generous portions of sushi, then venture out to experience the nightlife at the Pósthúsbarinn club or get a pint at R5 Bar.

Saturday

Enjoy complimentary breakfast in the hotel before heading to the Myvatn Nature Baths, 90 minutes from the hotel by car past mountains, sheep and farmland. Relax in the warm, man-made ultra-blue lagoon and swim under waterfalls, with panoramic views of the country's otherworldly terrain. Take a dip in the hot tub and order a beer, which the staff will serve you while you soak.

When you get back to town, go for dinner at Strikið, an upscale chef-driven establishment with a diverse menu. You'll dine on the top floor (or on the balcony, if weather permits), as you take in the city scene below. Try the mussels.

Sunday

Use your last day in Akureyri to explore hidden gems near the city center, like the Sjoppan Design Store. The shop's owner converted the entryway to his family's apartment into the smallest design shop in Iceland (3 square meters!). The curated selection has gifts and accessories from all over the world.

Slightly farther down the hill, you'll find Fróði fornbókabúð, with rare books in Icelandic. For a larger selection of new books and periodicals, try Eymundsson downtown; there's also an on-site cafe.

Downtown is a low-key art hub. GETTY

What to eat

Akureyri is unofficially nicknamed the "bearnaise city" for the locals' tendency to douse the sauce on anything and everything, especially pizza. Seafood is available in almost every restaurant, from fish and chips to salmon or steamed mussels. And of course, the Icelandic trend of hot dogs did not miss Akureyri.

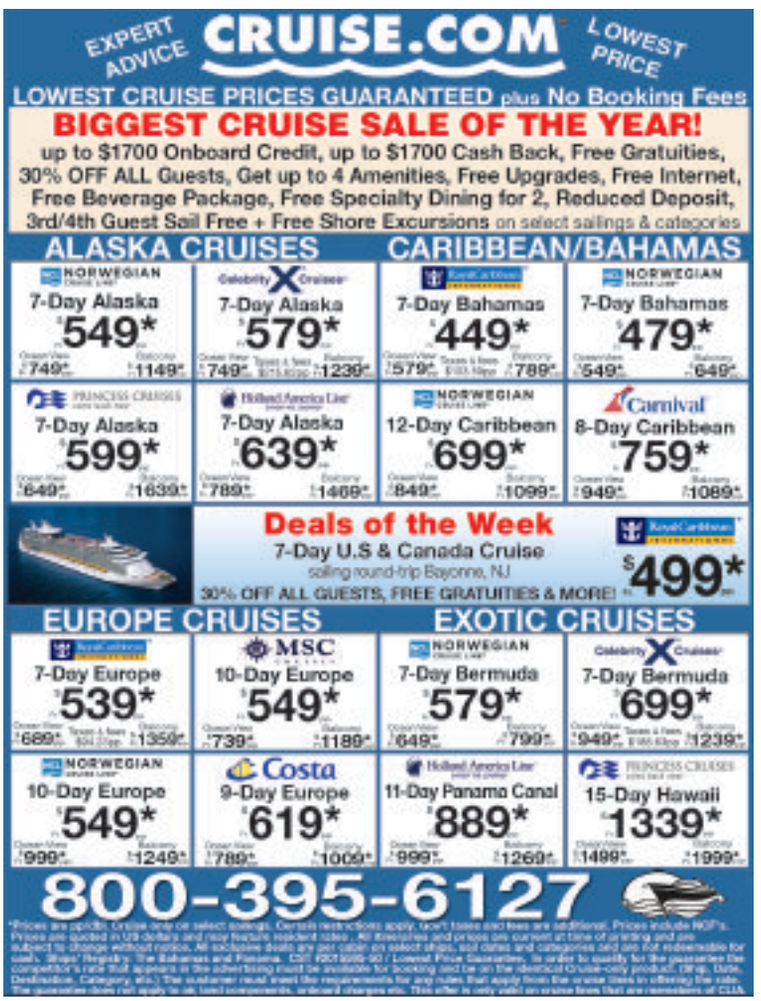
What to read

Hannah Kent's best-seller "Burial Rites" is based on a true story—Iceland's most infamous criminal case: the 1829 murders of Natan Ketilsson and Pétur Jónsson. The assailants, Ketilsson's maidservant and her accomplice, committed the crime at Ketilsson's farm while he and his guest were asleep. They were sentenced to a public execution, the first one that had been held in Iceland for over 40 years. The pair was beheaded in front of a crowd of 140; their heads, placed on spikes, mysteriously disappeared shortly after. Another assailant died of tuberculosis in prison where she was carrying out her sentence. Rumors of hatred and passion surround the case, the details of which unfold in Kent's book, along with her stirring depictions of Icelandic terrain.

For lighter reading, the impeccably-designed Creem-style Reykjavik Grapevine gives visitors of both Reykjavik and Akureyri an in-depth look at the Icelandic arts and music scene.

You can't go wrong with a lunch at Akureyri Fish and Chips before hitting the road. We suggest driving back to Reykjavik (four and a half hours) along Ring Road, or Route 1, through the region of Svalbarosstrond, which produces mindblowing views of the countryside.

If you have the time, you can also backtrack about 45 minutes and visit the spectacular Goðafoss waterfall (Icelandic for "waterfall of the gods"). On your route, about an hour and 20 minutes before you return to Reykjavik, go for an early dinner at the Hraunsnef Country Hotel in the Borgarbyggd district, and you'll feel like you're dining at a close friend's cottage. They serve various beef and veggie dishes.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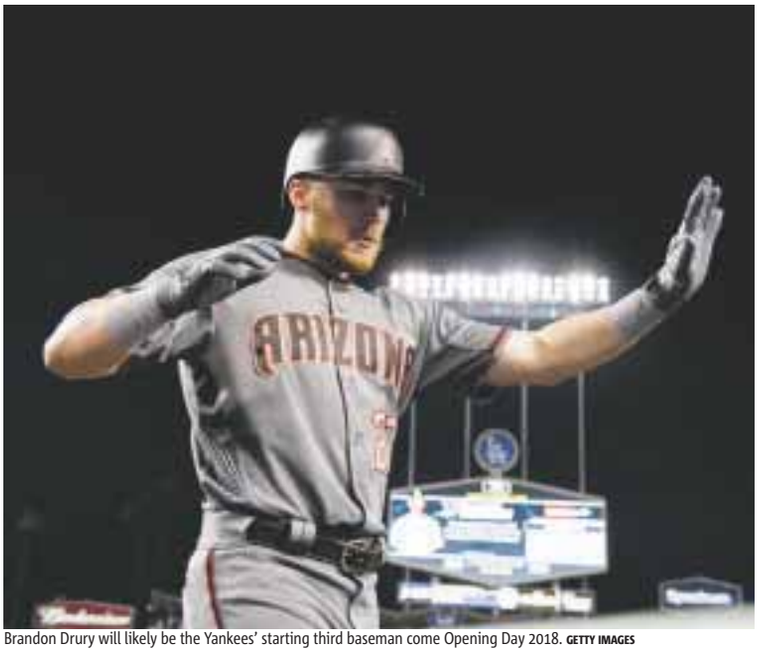


Brandon Drury will likely be the Yankees' starting third baseman come Opening Day 2018. GETTY IMAGES

Drury helps Yanks on field and in wallet

The Bronx Bombers acquired the infielder they badly needed at the perfect price.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman's stellar offseason continued on Tuesday night when he acquired infielder Brandon Drury from the Arizona Diamondbacks in a three-team deal.

The trade addresses one of the last few holes within New York's roster as Drury will likely become the team's starting third baseman after they dealt Chase Headley and missed out on retaining Todd Frazier, who signed with the crosstown-rival Mets.

The Yankees have highly-touted prospects Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar waiting in the wings, the former having recovered from Tommy John surgery, but Drury provides the Yankees with a bona fide starting option at third base should either of the two not be ready.

Should Torres prove he's healthy and ready to make the jump to the majors, he'll likely take over at second base with Andujar either on the bench or back in the minors.

New York isn't getting anything flashy with Drury at third, but he does provide a decent bat to place toward the bottom of the order that could flourish in the hitter-friendly ballpark that is Yankee Stadium.

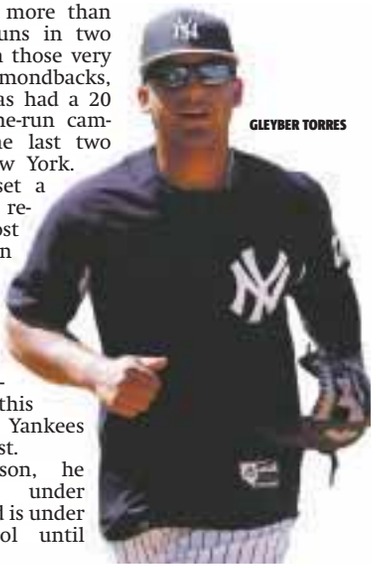
Playing at expansive Chase Field in Arizona, the 25-year-old managed to put up 162-game averages of 17 home runs and 70 RBI to go with a .271 career batting average.

Looking at a best-case scenario, the Yankees could see another Didi Gregorius-type development arise. After having not hit more than six home runs in two seasons with those very same Diamondbacks, Gregorius has had a 20 and 25 home-run campaign in the last two years in New York. The latter set a franchise record for most home runs in a single season set by a shortstop.

What might be most important about this deal for the Yankees is Drury's cost.

Last season, he made just under $560,000 and is under team control until 2021. Per ESPN Stats & Info, that leaves the Yankees with around $40 million of cushion beneath their luxury tax threshold of $197 million, though there have been other reports saying the team is only $15million to $22 million under that mark. Regardless, Drury allows them to go after another pitcher to help bolster the starting rotation.

For the time being, it looks as though the Yankees' lineup might be complete heading into the thick of spring training. So let's take a look at what their Opening Day lineup might look like come March.



GLEYBER TORRES

Projected Yankees Opening Day lineup

1	Brett Gardner- LF	Projected 2018 stats: .260 BA, 15 HR, 45 RBI
2	Aaron Judge- RF	Projected 2018 stats: .268 BA, 42 HR, 96 RBI
3	Giancarlo Stanton- DH	Projected 2018 stats: .274 BA, 54 HR, 112 RBI
4	Gary Sanchez- C	Projected 2018 stats: .286 BA, 32 HR, 88 RBI
5	Greg Bird- 1B	Projected 2018 stats: .240 BA, 16 HR, 47 RBI
6	Didi Gregorius- SS	Projected 2018 stats: .276 BA, 20 HR, 68 RBI
7	Aaron Hicks- CF	Projected 2018 stats: .252 BA, 13 HR, 43 RBI
8	Brandon Drury- 3B	Projected 2018 stats: .272 BA, 19 HR, 69 RBI
9	Gleyber Torres- 2B	Projected 2018 stats: .268 BA, 9 HR, 54 RBI

With money to spend, what pitchers could the Yankees pursue?

ALEX COBB

LANCE LYNN

CHRIS ARCHER

NY hockey invades Canada tonight

On-the-bubble Isles, struggling Rangers meet Leafs, Habs on Thursday night.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Rick Nash (left) could be dealt from the Rangers soon while Jaroslav Halak (right) is tasked with trying to stop pucks behind a lacking defense. GETTY IMAGES

Suddenly, the New York Islanders and Rangers are trending in two-different directions ... barely.

Rangers management has made their fans and the league aware earlier this month that they are entering a rebuilding mode after spending more than half the 2017-18 season fighting for postseason relevancy.

A difficult stretch to start the 2018 calendar year has suddenly made the Rangers sellers prior to the NHL's Feb. 26 trade deadline as they've won just five games in 19 dating back to Jan. 7.

They are currently on a four-game losing streak as they sit in last in the Metropolitan Division with 59 points.

Big names like Rick Nash, Ryan McDonagh and Michael Grabner have been linked to transaction talks. But the first domino fell on Tuesday afternoon when the team sent defenseman Nick Holden to the Boston Bruins for Ryan O'Gara and a third-round draft pick in 2018.

In the meantime, the Rangers visit the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night, a proud Original 6 franchise that is also experiencing a rare down season as they are on pace for just their second losing season since 2002-2003.

With just 52 points, the Habs are already 17 points out of a top-three spot in the Atlantic Division while whispers of dealing away Max Pacioretty grow louder.

In Toronto, the Islanders will have a much stiffer test on their hands as they are still gung-ho on the playoff race. While they're just five points ahead of the Rangers in the Metro standings, they are just one point out of the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

All this despite a defense that continually compromises the team's chances of winning night in and night out as they've allowed a league-worst 219 goals through 61 games.

As the trade deadline draws closer, general manager Garth Snow's hot seat should be growing warmer as he must address the blue line in order to keep the Islanders' playoff hopes alive and continue making a winning pitch to captain John Tavares, who will be a free agent this summer.

But don't expect the trend of a dizzying amount of goals allowed to change on Thursday night as the Maple Leafs, led by stud sophomore Auston Matthews, rank second in the NHL in goals scored.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1290090, for On Premise Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 261-267 Dykman St., New York, NY 10034. New York County, for on premises consumption. Kon'to Euro Caribbean Cuisine Corp. d/b/a Seawalk Restaurant

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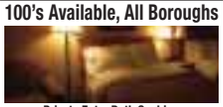
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ENTERTAINMENT

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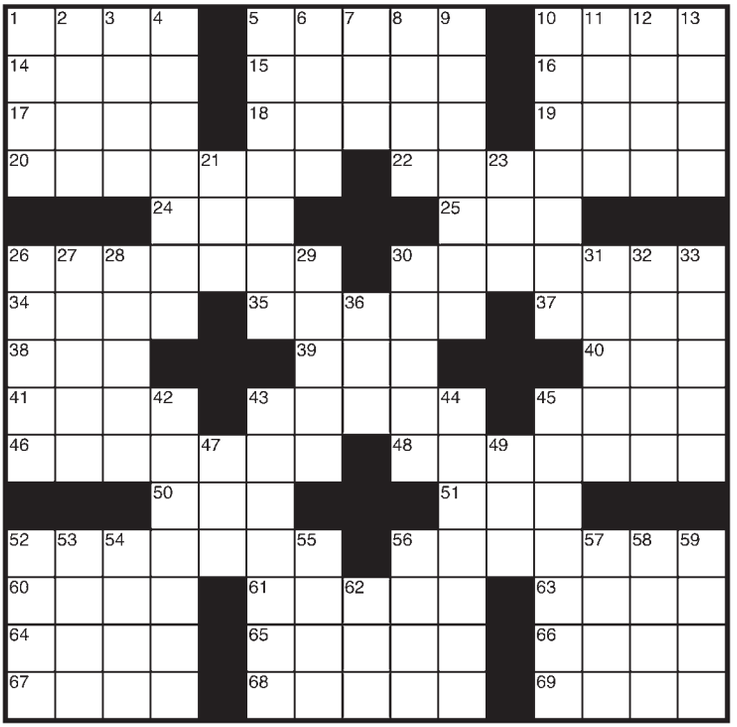
Across

1 Pouches
5 Work clothes
10 Tiny room
14 Break ground
15 Not edited
16 Tune for a diva
17 Munitions
18 Devoutness
19 "Kon- --"
20 Gossipy paper
22 Made slower
24 Bad tennis serve
25 Ms. Lupino
26 Stuck
30 Of no value
34 Rust component
35 Use the oven
37 Minstrel's instrument
38 Barnyard animal
39 "That's obvious!"
40 Checkbook amt.
41 Was very thrifty
43 Stodgy one
45 Metal thread
46 Sombrero go-withs
48 Bacon servings
50 Alphabet ender
51 1960s Chairman
52 Tacks on
56 Unrumples
60 Pore over a book
61 Soak in the tub
63 Bard or minstrel
64 Jurist -- Warren
65 Inner fire
66 International money
67 Contrived
68 Central points
69 Plummet

Down

1 Falling-out
2 Soprano -- Gluck
3 Item for a barber
4 High, as a river
5 Mars neighbor
6 Tennyson heroine
7 Playing card
8 Kooks
9 Salon employee
10 Jeer
11 Mr. Satie
12 Admire
13 Reclined
21 Above, to a bard
23 Fruit cooler
26 Buenos --, Argentina
27 Elizabethan buccaneer
28 "Iliad" writer
29 Extinct birds
30 Groom's attendant
31 Pianist -- Blake
32 Brenda of old comics
33 Competitor of Graf and Hingis
36 Leo mo.
42 As if in a trance
43 Horse's "lunchbox"
44 Complains peevishly
45 Yelled
47 Kind of pal
49 -- Tome
52 Linoleum measurement
53 Fruit tree
54 Auditioner's aim
55 Indian garment
56 Basketball throw
57 Sightseeing trip
58 The good guy
59 Layover
62 Six-pointers



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		4				6		1
	7				1		8	3
6		1						5
			1	3			2	
	8		9	2	6		1	
	2			4	8			
9						5		2
7	5		4				6	
2		6				8		

hard

		9		3			7	
5	8	2			7			1
4		7						
8				1			2	
3		5				6		9
	9			5				3
						2		6
2			8			1	5	7
	5			6		4		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Work until you have mastered what you want to present. Winging it may have worked in the past, but this time you will have to get your facts straight.

Taurus Open up and let others know where you stand and what you intend to do. Taking control will give you a sense of freedom and the ability to get what you want.

Gemini Little gestures can turn into a big deal if you are forthright in the way you go about helping others. What you receive in return will surprise you.

Cancer Participate in group endeavors to work alongside people from all walks of life. The information and experience you gain will encourage positive personal changes.

Leo Stay under budget and don't promise more than you can deliver. Timing is important, along with emotional control to avoid a misunderstanding that affects relationships.

Virgo Address an issue you have with a friend, relative or colleague. Keep an open mind to find a way to turn a negative into a positive.

Libra Make every moment count. Look for the positive in change that comes your way. Accepting others and doing your best with what you've got will lead to peace of mind.

Scorpio Before you make a purchase, consider your motives. If you're on an emotional spending spree, stop. Only spend your money on something that can help you advance.

Sagittarius Put more energy into how you earn your living or your volunteer work. Being responsible will give you a greater sense of self-worth and confidence.

Capricorn How you were raised and the way you handle money and domestic situations will elevate you comfort. Ease your stress by knowing what's right and then doing it.

Aquarius Avoid arguments with peers or relatives. If you don't agree, do your own thing. Arguing will be a waste of time and will make matters worse. Avoid excessive behavior.

Pisces Be grateful and use what is offered to help spin things your way. Don't ignore or dismiss what you can be achieving. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

C	L	A	D		W	H	I	F	F		C	O	R	D
L	O	L	A		A	U	D	I	O		A	L	A	I
U	G	L	Y		S	N	E	E	R		F	L	I	P
B	O	Y	C	O	T	T	S		M	E	T	A	L	S
			A	W	E				U	S	A			
A	C	T	R	E	S	S		P	L	A	N	E	R	S
G	O	R	E	D		W	H	O	A		S	E	A	T
I	L	E			R	E	A	R	S			R	T	E
N	O	V	A		I	D	L	E		I	D	I	O	M
G	R	I	M	A	C	E		S	A	T	E	E	N	S
			N	T	H				R	E	F			
G	E	N	E	V	A		A	N	I	M	A	T	E	D
A	X	E	S		R	A	N	I	S		C	O	T	E
S	P	O	T		D	A	N	C	E		E	R	N	E
P	O	N	Y		S	H	O	E	S		S	N	A	P

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